AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A data sending-out device, in which associated data associated with and multiplexed with main data is produced and sent out, comprising:

     producing means for producing the associated data of a prescribed type; and

     sending-out means for transforming the associated data of the prescribed type produced by the producing means into a bit stream and sending out the associated data transformed into the bit stream ~~at a sending-out rate equal to or lower than a prescribed upper limit bit rate~~;

     wherein the main data is a broadcast program, a type of tables or a plurality of types of tables based on electronic program guide information of the broadcast program are produced as the associated data by the producing means by adjusting an amount of information in the type of table so as to send out the types of tables at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and to send out each type of tables at a sending-out frequency equal to or higher than a specific sending-out frequency of the type of tables, the type of tables or the types of tables are transformed into the bit stream by the sending-out means, and the type of tables or the types of tables transformed into the bit stream are sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and at the sending-out frequencies equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequencies of the types of tables by the sending-out means.

2-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 1,~~4~~, wherein the types of

tables are produced by the producing means by adjusting the amounts of information in the types

of tables according to a plurality of priorities of the types of tables so as to be sent out at the

sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and at the sending-out

frequencies equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequencies of the types of tables.

9. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 1, 4, wherein the types of

tables are produced by the producing means by adjusting the amounts of information in the types

of tables according to a plurality of sending-out frequency reduction rates of the types of tables

so as to be sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit

rate and at the sending-out frequencies equal to or higher than the specific sending-out

frequencies of the types of tables.

10. (original) A data sending-out device according to claim 8, wherein the types of tables are

produced by the producing means by adjusting the amounts of information in the types of tables

according to a plurality of sending-out frequency reduction rates of the types of tables so as to be

sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and at

the sending-out frequencies equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequencies of the

types of tables.

11-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 1, 2, wherein the type of

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table or the types of tables are again produced in cases where it is impossible to send out the type

of table or the types of tables at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper

limit bit rate or it is impossible to send out each type of tables at a sending-out frequency equal

to or higher than a specific sending-out frequency of the type of tables.

15. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 1,-4, wherein the amount

of information in each-at least one type of table is calculated prior to the production of the at

least one type of table, and each-the at least one type of table is produced by the producing means

by adjusting the amount of information in the at least one type of table so as to send out the types

of tables at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and to

send out each type of tables at the sending-out frequency equal to or higher than the specific

sending-out frequency of the type of tables.

16. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 8, wherein the amount of

information in each-at least one type of table is calculated prior to the production of the at least

one type of table, and each-the at least one type of table is produced by the producing means by

adjusting the amount of information in the at least one type of table so as to send out the types of

tables at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and to send

out each type of tables at the sending-out frequency equal to or higher than the specific

sending-out frequency of the type of tables.

17. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 9, wherein the amount of

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information in ~~each~~ at least one type of table is calculated prior to the production of the at least one type of table, and ~~each~~ the at least one type of table is produced by the producing means by adjusting the amount of information in the at least one type of table so as to send out the types of tables at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and to send out each type of tables at the sending-out frequency equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequency of the type of tables.

18. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 15, wherein, prior to the production of at least one type of table, the amount of information ~~in~~ for each type of table information, ~~in~~ for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is not predetermined, is detected and added to a summed value in the calculation of the amount of information ~~performed prior to the production of the type of table~~, the amount of information ~~in~~ for each type of table information, ~~in~~ for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is predetermined, is read out from a record and is added to the summed value in the calculation of the amount of information ~~performed prior to the production of the type of table~~, and the amounts of information in the at least one types of tables ~~are~~ is calculated.

19. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 16, wherein, prior to the production of at least one type of table, the amount of information ~~in~~ for each type of table information, ~~in~~ for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is not predetermined, is detected and added to a summed value in the calculation of the amount of information ~~performed prior to the production of the type of table~~, the amount of information ~~in~~

for each type of table information, in for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is predetermined, is read out from a record and is added to the summed value in the calculation of the amount of information performed prior to the production of the type of table, and the amounts of information in the at least one types of tables are is calculated.

20. (currently amended) A data sending-out device according to claim 17, wherein, prior to the production of at least one type of table, the amount of information in for each type of table information, in for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is not predetermined, is detected and added to a summed value in the calculation of the amount of information performed prior to the production of the type of table, the amount of information in for each type of table information, in for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is predetermined, is read out from a record and is added to the summed value in the calculation of the amount of information performed prior to the production of the type of table, and the amounts of information in the at least one types of tables areis calculated.

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